



File Code: 2810
Date: March 4, 2020

Dear Forest User:

This letter is to invite you to participate in the scoping process of the Globe Ranger District environmental analysis or the proposed Hook project.

It is anticipated that this proposal may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement as a category of activity that allows short term (1 year or less) mineral investigations and incidental support activities, such as authorizing a plan for exploration which uses existing roads, cross-country travel by vehicles and equipment, and clearing of vegetation for drill pads (36 CFR 220.6 (e)(8)).

Project activities are proposed within Section 2 of Township 1 North, Range 15.5 East, in Gila County, Arizona (Figures 1 and 2). The Project Area is located approximately 5 miles north of Globe, Arizona, and would be accessed from Globe via the existing Copper Hills Road and U.S. Forest Service Road (FS) 278 and a short stretch of temporary access road (Figure 2). Copper Hill Road, a Forest Service Road maintained by Gila County, would not require improvement.

The proposed Plan of Operations, and project maps are available online at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57693>.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to conduct exploration drilling: BHP proposes exploration drilling at two sites located on National Forest System lands as part of mineral exploration activities in the vicinity of Globe, Arizona. Proposed activities consist of the construction of two drill pads with adjacent laydown yards, the use of existing roads, improvements to approximately 0.25 miles of Forest Service System roads, and construction of 700 feet of temporary access road (Figure 3). BHP must conduct mining operations in accordance with requirements of 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 228A, and in accordance with plans of operation that have been approved by the Forest Service. The Forest Service is required to respond to proposed plans of operations on National Forest System lands.

Proposed Action

BHP proposes exploration drilling at two sites. The proposed activities consist of the construction of two drill pads with adjacent laydown yards, turnaround yard, the use of existing roads, improvements to approximately 0.25 miles of Forest Service System roads, and construction of 700 feet of temporary access road. Total estimated disturbance is 1.14 acres.

Project activities, including road and drill pad construction and drilling operations, is anticipated to occur over an approximately 6-week period. Once the hole is completed, the drillers would abandon the hole before moving to the next hole. Drilling activities would be completed within 6 months to 1 year of the authorization of this Plan of Operations.



Comments

If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, especially any extraordinary circumstances, regarding the Proposed Action, please send these in writing during the 30-day scoping period, starting March 4th, 2020. Please send your questions, concerns, or mitigations to: The Hook Project c/o B. Chad Harrold, Geologist, 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Road, Globe, AZ 85501, or (928) 402-6200, or email comments-southwestern-tonto-globe@usda.gov.

When submitting comments, please keep them specific to this proposal only. Comments which are not specific to the project and project area will be deemed outside the scope of analysis and will not be considered. If you are including references, citations, or additional information to be considered for this project, please provide a copy, and specify exactly how the material relates to the project. Also indicate exactly what part of the material you would like us to consider (such as page or figure number).

Comments received in response to this scoping, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this project and will be available for public inspection and will be released if requested, under the Freedom of Information Act.

Contact

For additional information please contact B. Chad Harrold, Geologist at (928) 402-6200 or benjamin.harrold@usda.gov.

Sincerely,



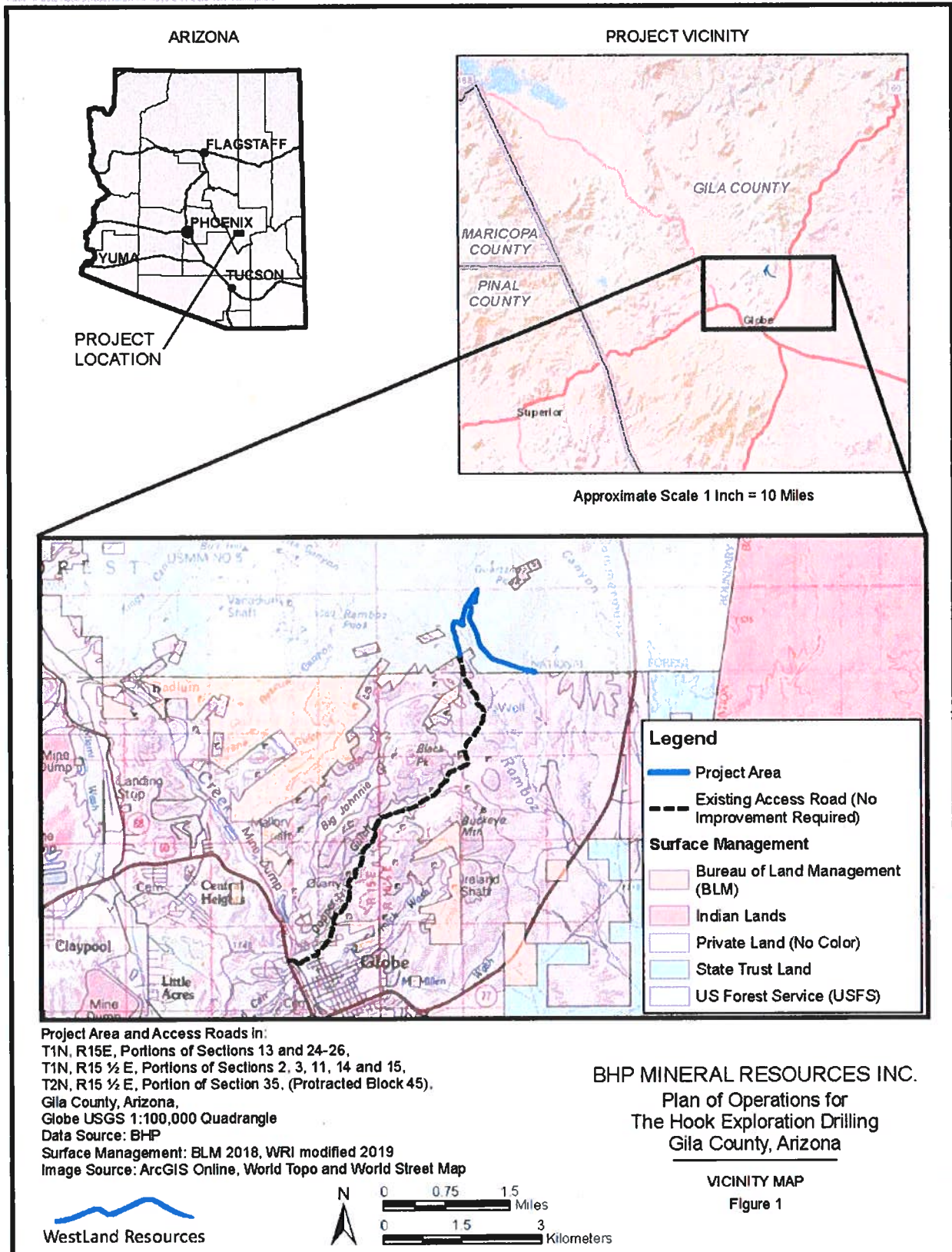
MARK SANDO
District Ranger

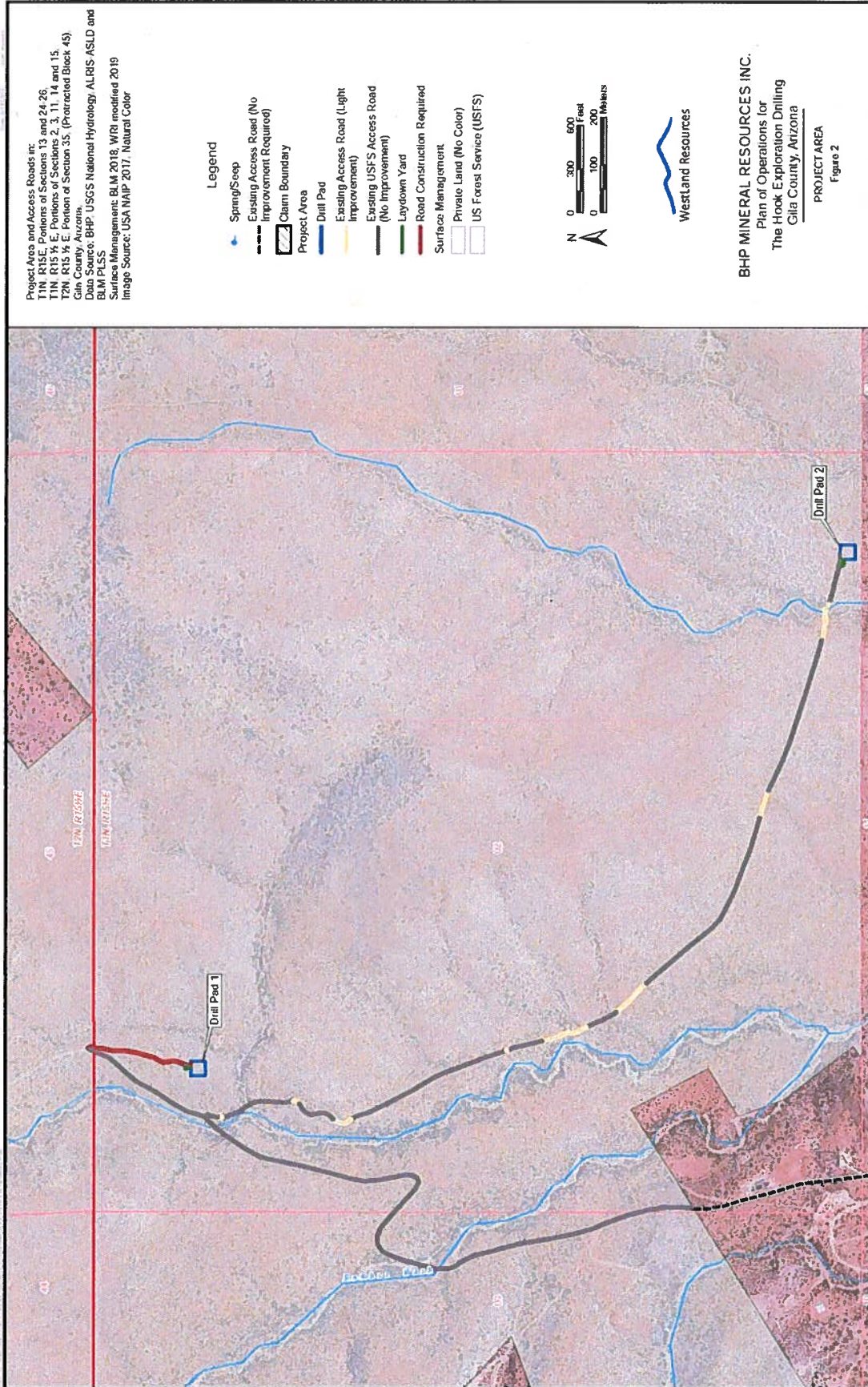
Enclosure

Path: M:\Users\15007\15007.DWG\NFA\003\ST\Globe\1501 VndrFigure

Date: 05/05/2019

Scale: 1:100,000





Caring for the Land and Serving People



Printed on Recycled Paper

